

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 SAB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /106 W

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O P 261150Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6005

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UN

SUBJ: SYRIAN PRESS EXPECTS DRAFT RESOLUTION WILL OBTAIN  
SECURITY COUNCIL MAJORITY

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN PRESS CONFIDENT

THAT DRAFT RESOLUTION WILL OBTAIN MAJORITY SECURITY  
COUNCIL VOTES AND THUS RESULT IN MORAL VICTORY FOR  
ARABS EVEN IF U.S. EMPLOYS VETO. U.S. MEDIA  
CITED AS ACKNOWLEDGING DIVERGENCE IN U.S. POSITION  
FROM THOSE ITS ALLIES. SYRIAN ROLE IN ACHIEVING LEBANESE  
CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN FEATURED MORE THAN SC PROCEEDINGS  
IN WEEKEND PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN MEDIA ON EVE SC VOTING EXPRESS CONFIDENCE  
DRAFT RES. "ENJOYS MAJORITY REQUIRED FOR ITS SUCCESS

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REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE USE BY AMERICA OF VETO."

REPORTS FROM NEW YORK CLAIMED FRANCE AND JAPAN  
SIGNALLED THEIR WILLINGNESS ACCEPT REVISED DRAFT  
WORDING WHILE ITALY AND SWEDEN HAVE REQUESTED  
FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVTS. "ALTHOUGH  
THEY WILL PROBABLY ENDORSE IT." AL-BAATH NOTED  
THAT "ONLY WESTERN COUNTRY -- BESIDES U.S. --  
WHICH STILL RAISES SOME OBSTACLES AND DEMANDS IS  
BRITAIN, WHICH HAS SO FAR ADOPTED NEGATIVE STAND."

3. AL-BAATH ASSERTED THAT ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN  
RIGHTS CLEARLY DELINEATED IN DRAFT AND THAT U.S.  
VETO WOULD NOT DIMINISH VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF  
DRAFT RES. SOURCE WITHIN SYRIAN PERM  
DELEGATION STATED, "WE STILL HOPE U.S. WILL TAKE  
INTO CONSIDERATION ITS OWN INTEREST AND REFRAIN FROM  
OPPOSING RESOLUTION INSTEAD OF USING VETO  
SERVE ISRAELI POLICY AND EXPANSIONIST  
AMBITIONS. WE ALSO HOPE THAT BRITAIN WILL FOLLOW  
EXAMPLE OF OTHER EUROPEAN STATES AND SUPPORT  
DRAFT ALTHOUGH IT NOW HINTS AT USE OF VETO POWER."  
AL-BAATH CITED AMERICAN MEDIA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT  
U.S. WOULD DIVERGE FROM ITS ALLIES IF IT USED VETO.  
ALSO CLAIMED THAT AMERICAN MEDIA HAVE STRESSED  
NEED FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS TO DEAL WITH ISSUES OF  
COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES  
AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. SANA DISPATCH FROM  
WASHINGTON STATED AMERICAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP HAD  
CALLED FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE  
PEACE DISCUSSIONS.

4. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST COMMENTED THAT "IT IS WRONG  
TO BE LEAST BIT OPTIMISTIC WITH REGARD TO AMERICAN  
POSITION. HOSTILE POSITION (OF AMERICA) HAS  
BEEN WELL KNOWN FOR SOME TIME. U.S. IS ONLY  
INTERESTED IN ITS IMPERIALIST INTERESTS RATHER THAN  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY." COLUMNIST  
RECALLED THAT IN JULY 1973 U.S. HAD USED VETO  
AGAINST SC RES. DEPLORING CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION  
OF ARAB LANDS. "TWO AND ON-HALF MONTHS AFTER  
THAT VETO OCT WAR BROKE OUT. IT IS PREMATURE TO  
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FORETELL SARG RESPONSE TO AMERICAN VETO (AT CURRENT  
SC SESSION), BUT WE CAN SAY THAT ISSUE WILL NOT  
RETURN TO PREVIOUS STATE OF IMMOBILITY."

5. COMMENT: FAVORABLE REPORTING OF SYRIAN EFFORTS  
TO IMPLEMENT LEBANESE CEASEFIRE GENERALLY  
SUPPLANTED SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE IN WEEKEND MEDIA AS TOP  
NEWS STORY THOUGH SC DEVELOPMENTS ARE CLOSE SECOND.

THIS SHIFT IN EMPHASIS MAY CUSHION TO SOME EXTENT NEGATIVE  
IMPACT OF US VETO LOCALLY. PRESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO  
DOWNPLAY EXPECTED VETO BY INDICATING THAT  
ANTICIPATED SC MAJORITY CONSTITUTES MORAL VICTORY  
FOR SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN CAUSE IRREGARDLESS ULTIMATE  
U.S. POSITION.  
MURPHY

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